(b) whether it is also a fact that Government didn't take any interest in replying to the said letters;

(c) whether Government propose to affix responsibility and take any action against the officers who didn't reply to these letters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Out of the letters received in the Ministry from Members of Parliament upto 31-3-1994 which remained unanswered till that date, now only 194 letters are pending. The pendency is because in most of the cases the matters raised in the letters cannot be finally disposed of by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since these necessitate collection of data or requisite information from various Public Sector Undertakings. This process takes a lot of time.

Exploration on petroleum resources in Cauvery basin

1401. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) how much area is covered in the Cauvery Basin for geological prospectivity;

(b) what are the estimated reserves in these areas; and

(c) what are the steps taken to explore and develop the petroleum resources in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) The entire prospective area in Cauvery Basin comprising of 15,200 sq. km. onland and 17,700 sq km. offshore has been covered by geoscientific surveys.

(b) The estimated geological hydrocarbon reserves as on 1.4.94 in the Cauvery Basin for onland and offshore are 48.86 MMt and 34.83 MMt. respectively

(c) Presently 4 field parties are deployed in the basin for acquiring seismic data and 8 drilling rigs are deployed for delineating the existing fields as well as for testing hydrocarbon potential of new prospects.

Pending oil projects from Gujarat

1402. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various oil schemes and projects in Gujarat, lying pending with the Central Government:

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any; and

(c) the time by which these projects and schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The following projects|schemes pertaining to oil sector in Gujarat are under different stages of processing in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas Corporation:--

(1) Commercialisation in In-situ combustion at Balol (Main) of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(2) Application of In-situ Combustion at Santal Phase-II of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(3) Indian Oil Corporation's proposal relating to Gujarat Refinery expansion